

allegedly “tremendously disruptive” consequences, *see* ECF No. 57, at 24-27, HHS has never explained why it could not have (as this Court ordered) commenced a new rulemaking proceeding to avoid any purported disruption. To the extent that there was any doubt that HHS’s cry of disruption was a purely self-inflicted wound, HHS’s new Notice clearly demonstrates its ability to promulgate a new rule.

To be sure, this new Rule is both procedurally and substantively improper. For one thing, the Administrative Procedures Act does not permit HHS to delay taking action for months and then use an alleged timing emergency of its own creation to avoid going through notice and comment. Health Connections is currently exploring its legal options in responding to this new agency action. But, that is an issue for another day and another case. For purposes of the matter presently before the Court, the new Rule promulgated by HHS underscores just how specious HHS’s pending Rule 59 motion is. Plaintiff respectfully submits that the Court should deny HHS’s motion for reconsideration in its entirety.

Dated: August 1, 2018

Respectfully submitted:

/s/ Nancy R. Long

Nancy R. Long
LONG, KOMER & ASSOCIATES, PA
2200 Brothers Road/PO Box 5098
Santa Fe, NM 87502
(505) 982-8405
nancy@longkomer.com
email@longkomer.com
vmarco@longkomer.com

Barak A. Bassman
Sara B. Richman
Leah Greenberg Katz
PEPPER HAMILTON LLP
3000 Two Logan Square
Eighteenth and Arch Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2799
215-981-4000
bassmanb@pepperlaw.com
richmans@pepperlaw.com
katzl@pepperlaw.com

Marc D. Machlin
PEPPER HAMILTON LLP
Hamilton Square
600 Fourteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-2004
202-220-1200
machlinm@pepperlaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on August 1, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing Response to HHS's Notice using the Court's CM/ECF system, causing a notice of filing to be served upon all counsel of record.

/s/ Nancy R. Long
Nancy R. Long